

MINUTES

The Vernon County Department of Human Services Committee met on Monday, April 14, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Sherman Erlandson. Proper public notice was given.

Erlandson stated the meeting would be turned over to Eitland to elect a Chairperson for the Human Services committee. Eitland asked for nominations. Hicks made the motion to retain Erlandson as Chairman and Brault and Vice-Chairman. Second by Cox. Nominations were closed. Motion carried.

Motion by Brault to approve the minutes as sent. Second by McCoy. Motion carried.

Audience to Visitors

Erlandson acknowledged Herb Cornell County Board Chairman, Linda Kica from Human Resources, Greg Lunde Corporation Counsel and Kate Strait Child Welfare Intern.

Economic Support/WREA Unit Update

Eitland stated that she had received calls from committee members requesting an agenda item be added to discuss the ES unit. Erlandson stated that he wanted to reiterate that Eitland's office is always available for anyone to come to her with concerns or questions. Brault stated he also requested this agenda item be in open session at the committee meeting explaining what this was about and how it was resolved as not all board members knew what had happened. Brault stated that several county board members received phone calls from a La Crosse County employee expressing concerns that she was being told that she should report to work in La Crosse versus working in the Vernon County office. Eitland stated that we are part of the WREA 8 county consortium. The employing county has the final say in where a staff person is housed. The 8 WREA Directors analyze the needs county to county for staffing and supervision. Eitland stated this issue is a La Crosse County matter and they have and will continue to manage their staff. Questions were asked and answered by Kica, Eitland, and Committee Members. Brault wanted to thank Eitland for her clarification and stated he was satisfied with her leadership and the other Committee Members agreed and offered multiple comments about her leadership and direction of the Department.

Review/Approve 2013 Purchase of Service Contract Amendments

Eitland stated there was one 2013 purchase of service contract amendment for Coulee Children's Center in the amount of \$678. Motion made by Hicks to approve this 2013 contract amendment. Second by Vosseteig. Motion carried.

Review/Approve 2014 Purchase of Service Contract Amendments

Eitland stated there was one 2014 purchase of service contract amendment for Northwest Passages for mental health court committed in the amount of \$37,278. Motion made by Brault to approve this 2014 purchase of service contract. Second by Cox. Motion carried.

Presentation of Vouchers/Internal Transfers

Vouchers were presented. Eitland stated we received a bill from Vernon Memorial Hospital from July 2013 that needed approval for \$715.

Eitland stated our quarterly payment to DHS - State of Wisconsin for Family Care in the amount of \$80,578.75 is included in this month's vouchers. Motion made by Richardson to approve the 2013 and 2014 vouchers in the total amount of \$373,787.22. Second by McCoy. Motion carried.

Discussion about Comprehensive Community Services

Eitland stated the Comprehensive Community Services program is a community mental health services program. The biennial budget included state funding of the non-federal share of services that counties would usually pay for. Eitland stated examples of CCS services include case management, independent living skills and supportive living. Eitland stated the Joint Committee on Finance (JCF) has now opposed funding for this program as they think the state may not be able to afford to support it into the future. Eitland stated there will be hearings in the next few weeks with testimony to JCF to encourage the state to release the money to fund this program. Eitland stated if the Joint Committee on Finance does not vote to approve the release of funding then Vernon County will not proceed with development of CCS. If they approve, then we will look at the program as a joint measure with Crawford County and Center Point Counseling Services with a potential start date in November 2014.

Discussion about status of Mississippi Valley Health Services

Eitland stated she attend the Board of Directors meeting with Sherman Erlandson and Ole Yttri. Eitland stated the question is what will happen to our people at Lakeview when the large nursing home is not there anymore. Eitland stated La Crosse County will be building one 50-bed nursing home facility and it has been decided that Mississippi Valley consumers can be a resident there even if they are not a La Crosse County resident. Eitland stated this new facility is scheduled to open in 2016. Eitland stated we have had up to 17 individuals at Lakeview at one time but that we are currently focused on 4 people that will need a placement like Lakeview into the future. Eitland stated that Vernon County still continues to benefit from active participation in MVHS. The annual meeting will be in August.

Internal Transfers

Brault mentioned the internal transfers were not approved. Motion by Richardson to approve the internal transfers in the amount of \$53.92. Second by McCoy. Motion carried.

Program Reports

Long-Term Support/ADRC WW – Jean Klousia

Klousia stated we met our maintenance of effort requirement in the amount of \$107,004 for the Birth to Three Program. Klousia stated this means we can claim our administration costs for 2013.

Klousia stated Vernon County is struggling with the lack of psychiatric services. Klousia stated Center Point will be hiring a child and adolescent psychiatrist in July and a psychiatric nurse full time that will be able to prescribe medicine.

Family & Children's Unit – Jim Lee

Lee handed out the statistics for March. Lee stated they are still one worker short and thanked Kate Strait who is a Viterbo intern in the Family & Children's Unit.

Lee stated there are 8 children in out of home care.

Lee stated there are 10 individuals receiving Kinship Care.

Lee stated there are 11 families in the CST program.

Lee stated there is 1 family in in-home safety.

Income Maintenance – Chris Stanke

Eitland stated Stanke was not present at the meeting today. Eitland stated that within the WREA Consortium there is a Child Care Subsidy Pilot Program. Eitland stated this program helps low-income people cover the cost of day care. Eitland stated there are now centralized duties within the WREA Consortium as to how the hours are reported for children at day care and providers are paid. Eitland stated Vernon County staff is one of two counties doing this pilot program. Eitland stated we can bill the staff time (up to 12-15 hours per week) to WREA which saves county tax dollars on salary and fringe. Eitland stated if the consortium is successful based on our percentage of cases done correctly, other consortiums across the state may duplicate this model program also.

Clerical/ES/Administration – Kelly Schwarz

Schwarz stated she was glad to be back to work after her maternity leave.

Schwarz stated that Cindy Harter administers the energy assistance program through Couleecap and has done a fantastic job this year. Schwarz said 1,321 applications were processed and 1,203 of those applicants received assistance for a total of \$613,000. Schwarz stated 254 families received crisis assistance in the amount of \$145,380.

Financial – Marsha Everson

Eitland stated Everson was not present at the meeting. Eitland stated the budget vs. expenditures for 2014 should be at 25% and most line items are within budget. Eitland stated a line was added to this report as requested last month for state mental health facilities. Eitland stated the County Board is now paying for the costs at the state mental health institutes. The Committee thought it would be helpful to look at these costs monthly. Eitland stated we are projecting we will break \$500,000 between Mendota and Winnebago by the end of May or June. Motion made by Starks to accept this report. Second by Hicks. Motion carried.

Director's Report – Pamela Eitland

Eitland stated that she had a meeting with Bremmer, Vernon Memorial Hospital, and Scenic Bluffs regarding the grant for \$75,000 through the Bremmer Foundation for dental care. Eitland stated if this program is successful it may be repeated year after year. We should receive notice in May if the proposal is accepted.

Eitland stated she also submitted a mini-grant for \$2,000 for suicide prevention and rural mental health service improvements. Eitland stated there is a conference July 17 & 18, 2014 in Washington D.C. and if she receives the grant she would like to attend. The grant will cover most costs. She will discuss this again in May after notice is given about awards.

Eitland stated WCHSA is looking at redefining the structure of the Board. Eitland stated WCHSA is also looking into hiring an executive director which will increase dues. Eitland stated that currently County Board Members and County Directors serve on the Board as volunteers. Eitland stated Vernon County is also a member of Wisconsin Counties Association and there would be some duplication of services if WCHSA hires an Executive. But depending on how the final vote is worded, it may benefit Vernon County Human Services to support of this hire. Eitland stated after discussion that she will vote on what she feels is in the best interest of Vernon County. The Committee was comfortable with this plan and requested a report on the vote at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Human Services Committee was scheduled for May 12, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

The Board thanked Bob Starks for his service on the committee.

Motion made by Vosseteig to adjourn. Second by Cox. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

Kim Tainter
Administrative Secretary

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sherman Erlandson
Frank McCoy
Brian Richardson
Ralph Hicks
Bob Starks
Maynard Cox
Dianne Radcliffe
Dennis Brault

MEMBERS ABSENT

OTHERS PRESENT

Pamela Eitland
Kim Tainter
Jean Klousia
Kelly Schwarz
Jim Lee
Kate Strait
Greg Lunde
Linda Kica
Herb Cornell